**Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (*Withdrawn*) A method of treating an individual afflicted with rheumatoid arthritis comprising administering to the individual IL-17 receptor.

2. (*Original*) A method of treating an individual afflicted with rheumatoid arthritis, the method comprising administering to the individual an IL-17 receptor antibody, wherein the IL-17 receptor antibody inhibits IL-17 receptor signal transduction.

3. (*Withdrawn*) A method of treating an individual afflicted with rheumatoid arthritis comprising administering to the individual a therapeutic comprising a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of the extracellular domain of human IL-17 receptor and a fragment of the extracellular domain of human IL-17 receptor, wherein the fragment inhibits the binding of IL-17 receptor and IL-17.

4. (*Withdrawn*) A method of treating an individual afflicted with rheumatoid arthritis, the method comprising administering to the individual a therapeutic comprising a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
   (a) a polypeptide having amino acids 33 through 322 of SEQ ID NO:1;
   (b) a polypeptide that is at least about 70% identical to the polypeptide of (a) and that binds IL-17; and
   (c) fragments of the proteins of (a) or (b), that bind IL-17.

5. (*Withdrawn*) The method of claim 3, wherein the therapeutic is a chimeric fusion protein that further comprises an immunoglobulin Fc.

6. (*Withdrawn*) The method according to claim 3, further comprising administering, one or more therapeutics selected from the group consisting of a TNF antagonist and an IL-1 antagonist.

7. (*Withdrawn*) The method of claim 6, wherein the IL-1 antagonist is selected from the group consisting of soluble IL-1 receptor type II, IL-1R type I antibody, IL-1 receptor antagonist, and fusion protein comprising soluble IL-1 receptor type I, and soluble IL-1 receptor accessory protein.

8. (*Original*) The method of claim 2, further comprising administering one or more therapeutics selected from the group consisting of TNF antagonist, IL-1 antagonist and DMARD.

9. (*Original*) The method of claim 8 wherein the TNF antagonist is selected from the group consisting of TNF antibodies, soluble TNF receptor p75, and soluble TNF receptor p55.

10. (*Original*) The method of claim 8 wherein the IL-1 antagonist is selected from the group consisting of soluble IL-1 receptor type II, IL-1R type I antibody, IL-1 receptor antagonist, and fusion protein comprising soluble IL-1 receptor type I, and soluble IL-1 receptor accessory protein.

11. (*Withdrawn*) The method of claim 6 wherein the TNF antagonist is selected from the group consisting of TNF antibodies, soluble TNF receptor p75, and soluble TNF receptor p55.

12. (*Original*) The method of claim 8 wherein the DMARD is methotrexate.

13. (*Previously presented*) A method of treating an individual afflicted with rheumatoid arthritis, the method comprising administering to the individual a therapeutic comprising an antibody that binds a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a polypeptide having amino acids 33 through 320 of SEQ ID NO:1;
(b) a polypeptide having amino acids 28 through 320 of SEQ ID NO:1;
(c) a polypeptide having amino acids 1-320 of SEQ ID NO:1;
(d) a polypeptide having amino acids 1-866 of SEQ ID NO:1;
(e) a polypeptide having amino acids 28-866 of SEQ ID NO:1; and
(f) a polypeptide having amino acids 33-866 of SEQ ID NO:1.

14. (*Previously presented*) The method according to claim 2, further comprising administering one or more therapeutics selected from the group consisting of a TNF antagonist and an IL-1 antagonist.

15. (*Previously presented*) The method of claim 14 wherein the IL-1 antagonist is selected from the group consisting of soluble IL-1 receptor type II, IL-1R type I antibody, IL-1 receptor antagonist, and fusion protein comprising soluble IL-1 receptor type 1 and soluble IL-1 receptor accessory protein.

16. (*Previously presented*) The method of claim 14 wherein the TNF antagonist is selected from the group consisting of TNF antibodies, soluble TNF receptor p75, and soluble TNF receptor p55.